



# Superintendent's Bulletin

January 2019 • Volume 7 • Issue 5



*Talking over the conceptual renderings with RHS 9th graders*

## Dear RCSD Community Member,

If you've stopped into any of the District's five school buildings or central offices recently, you may have noticed some new décor. Each building's entryway now displays what are called conceptual design boards that represent work that could result from the passage of the proposed capital bond on March 12. These are concepts only – the District cannot begin work on actual architectural plans until after a bond is approved – but they illustrate the kinds of improvements that could be made to the areas of the school district that are most in need. They also contain photos and renderings of work the District's architects have done in other schools – here in the U.S. and overseas, where some of the most exciting school design is taking place.

If you don't have time to stop by a building, the boards are also viewable in the **School-by-School Snapshot** section of the capital bond area of the District's website. They are listed by school, and you can use the zoom feature to see the details. The Rye Free Reading Room has kindly offered to post the boards in their Meeting Room for the month of February.

"Sounds great," you say, "but when are all these wonderful changes going to take place?" Let's presume the community approves the bond on March 12. Beginning March 13, the District's architects will work with school-based design teams to complete architectural/engineering plans for the spaces. The planning phase would last until November of 2019, when plans will be submitted to the State Education Department (SED) in Albany. School districts are legally required to submit plans for capital projects to the SED for review and approval. Given that there are 720 school districts in the State of New York, and there are seven reviewers on staff, the backlog is fairly immense. The current wait time for approval is 39 weeks. And so we wait...

Presuming approval happens in late spring of 2020, construction would begin shortly thereafter. The turf field and track, already at end of life, would be among the first projects tackled. Work within the school buildings would need to be phased to allow for instruction to continue to take place in the schools, and much work would need to be done over the summer. We would anticipate construction to be completed in the elementary schools by the fall of 2021, and at the



*And Osborn School faculty and staff*

*Continued on page 2.*

## INSIDE THIS BULLETIN...

- Commendations
- Project-Based Learning
- Looking Ahead

*Continued from page 1.*

High School/Middle School campus by fall of 2023. **You can see the construction timetable here.**

Individual school construction timetables are also visible in the School-by-School Snapshot section of the website.

I also want to emphasize that there is a great deal of work contained in the bond that is not represented by those beautiful boards. Things like new boilers, new windows and doors, bathroom renovations, and floor and ceiling replacements inside; and roof work, drainage, paving, and re-pointing of masonry outside. As any homeowner knows, these repairs are not glamorous, but they are essential.

I encourage you to learn more about the bond and the many exciting projects associated with it at one of several **upcoming public meetings**. We have also set up an email address for individual inquiries: [bondinfo@ryeschools.org](mailto:bondinfo@ryeschools.org).

Sincerely,



Eric Byrne, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



*Rhythm on Rye competing at the ICHSA quarterfinals*

## Commendations

The RHS a capella group **Rhythm on Rye**, competed at the ICHSA quarterfinals in Troy on January 24

■ This year's winners of the Head's Up! A Distracted Walking and Driving poster contest:

- First place: 9th grader **Emily Saurack**, second place: 9th grader **Abby Bozek**, and third place: 10th grader **Greg Franzetti**

■ The Westchester Chapter of the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame annually names standouts for both athletic and academic excellence to its Scholar-Athlete or "Golden Dozen" team. RHS senior **Jack Iuliano** was selected, and senior **Tyler Webb** is an honorable mention selection. Both were honored on January 25 at the 45th annual awards banquet

■ Senior **Tyler Webb** was named December Athlete of the Month by the Lion's Club

■ Senior **Lachlan Nelson** was awarded the Rye Rotary Sportsmanship Award on January 18

■ The **RHS varsity boys track team** (seniors **Bradley Squarek**, **Connor Maloney**, **John Goldszer**, and **Cian Galligan**) broke the school record for the distance medley relay (DMR) at the New Balance Games Invitational, winning the invitational, running the fastest time in New York State thus far this season; 10:32.32 is the new record

■ The RHS varsity girls track team broke two longstanding school records at the New Balance Games Invitational:

- In the distance medley relay (DMR) senior **Elena Perez-Segnini**, 10th grader **Katie Coyne**, 11th grader **Cate McWilliam**, and senior **Rachael Adelson** set the new record at 12:37.03
- In the 4x200, senior **Sara DeGraw**, 9th grader **Lucy Adelson**, 10th grader **Katie Coyne**, and 11th grader **Cristina Nieves Molina** set the new record at 1:54.15
- 9th grader **Lucy Adelson** broke the school record for 500 meters; 1:24.98 is the new record

## LOOKING AHEAD:

**Tuesday, February 5**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
8:00 p.m.  
RMS Multipurpose Room

**Wednesday, February 6**  
**Book Discussion for Doing**  
**School with Superintendent**  
**Dr. Eric Byrne**  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Rye Free Reading Room

**February 18-February 22**  
**Mid-Winter Recess**  
(Schools Closed)

**Tuesday, February 26**  
**Board of Education**  
**Meeting/Budget**  
**Presentation**  
8:00 p.m.  
RMS Multipurpose Room

**Saturday, March 2**  
**Community Café on Capital**  
**Bond Proposal/Buildings**  
**and Facilities Tours**  
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
RMS Multipurpose  
Room/Schools

**Thursday, March 7**  
**Community Capital Bond**  
**Information Session**  
Rye Free Reading Room  
7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 12**  
**Capital Bond Proposal Vote**  
RMS Gymnasium  
7 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.



*Midland 4th Grade  
Teacher Andrea Silviotti  
shows off her students' project*



*Jim Rinaldi's 8th grade social studies students  
present their project to Dr. Byrne*

## Project-Based Learning Breaks Out at RCSD

In the spring of last year, the Rye Fund for Education began funding a Project-Based Learning Fellowship program at the Rye City School District. Fifteen teachers from the elementary, Middle and High Schools applied to become PBL fellows and learn how to rethink, redesign, and implement units of study into their curricula that incorporated the PBL approach. They took their learnings back to their classrooms; and on January 22, they showed off the results to the community and the Board of Education.

The highlighted projects included:

- **Andrea Silviotti's 4th grade class** at Midland tackled the question, "How can we create a community of peaceful problem solvers based on our values and beliefs," which related to their study of the Iroquois peoples
- **Amy Carman's 5th grade class** at Osborn asked themselves, "What can you create that will raise awareness of and support for immigrant children who are separated from what they are comfortable with?" which related to a book the class read about a refugee family who move to Minnesota
- **Marisa Kroger's 9th grade Living Environment classes** challenged themselves to create a sustainable long-term solution to help protect, enhance, or maintain an aspect of the Long Island Sound
- Social Studies teacher and department chair **Jim Rinaldi's 8th grade students** challenged themselves to retool RMS for the 21st century
- **Claire Gilroy's 12th grade Senior Biology class** looked at creating a product that addresses a water issue for a relevant audience that addresses a global, national, or local water issue

Teachers and students alike have enthusiastically embraced the new teaching and learning style. To quote:

*PBL is not focused on the end product at all; the learning happens during the challenge. It has been transformative for me as a teacher. – Osborn teacher Amy Carman*

*I'm learning the material instead of "learning" the material. I'm learning without needing to memorize; I'm really understanding. – 9th grade Living Environment Student*

*This is probably the coolest thing I've done in about 20 years. – RMS Social Studies Teacher Jim Rinaldi*